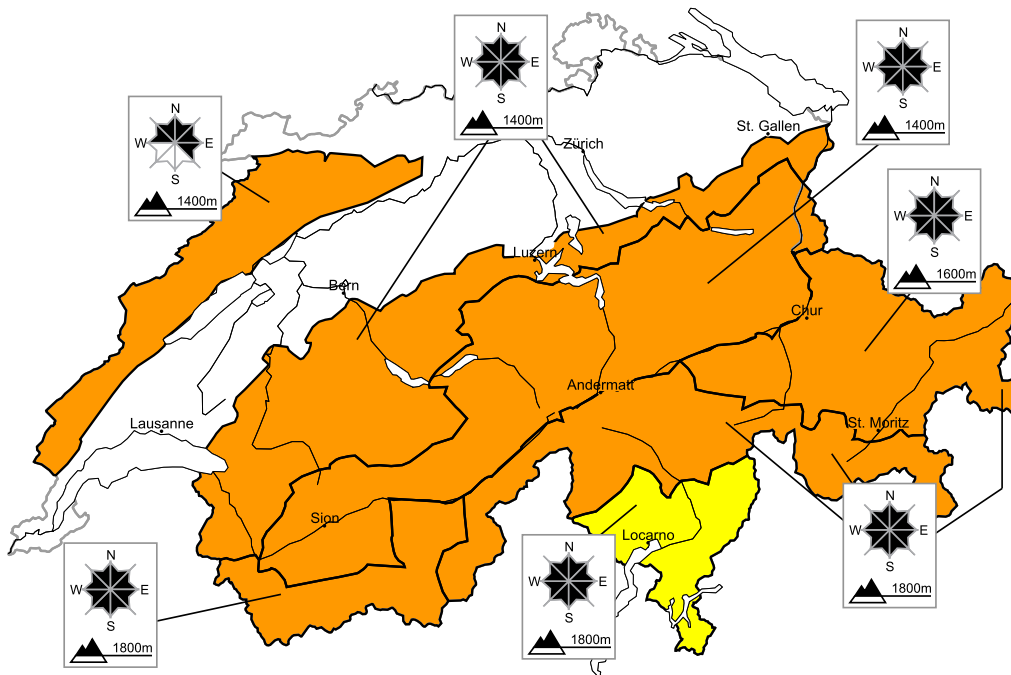


Increase in avalanche danger in the west and in the north. Outside marked and open pistes a critical avalanche situation will prevail

Edition: 17.1.2021, 08:00 / Next update: 17.1.2021, 17:00

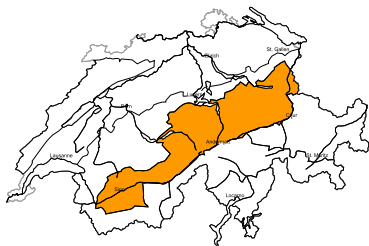
Avalanche danger

updated on 17.1.2021, 08:00



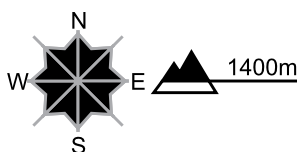
region A

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

As the day progresses as a consequence of new snow and wind there will be an increase in the avalanche danger. Natural avalanches are possible. In the afternoon danger level 4 (high) will be reached. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are dangerous. This also applies below the tree line.

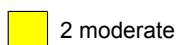
Gliding avalanches

In particular at low altitude gliding avalanches are to be expected. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

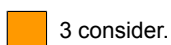
Danger levels



1 low



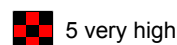
2 moderate



3 consider.



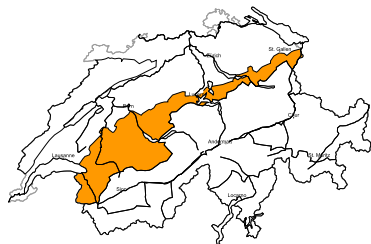
4 high



5 very high

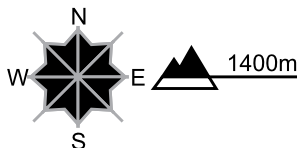
region B

Level 3, considerable



Old snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical. This also applies below the tree line.

Gliding avalanches

In particular at low altitude gliding avalanches are to be expected. Areas with glide cracks are to be avoided.

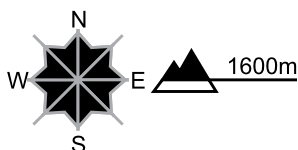
region C

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow and wind slabs of the last few days are poorly bonded with the old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches easily, including large ones. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger.

As a consequence of northwesterly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. As the day progresses individual natural avalanches are possible.

The snow sport conditions outside marked and open pistes are critical. This also applies below the tree line.

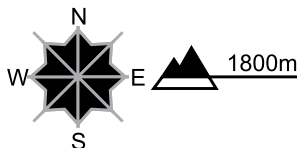
region D

Level 3, considerable



Old snow, wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow of the last few days is lying on top of a weakly bonded old snowpack. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches very easily. These can be released in the weakly bonded old snow and reach large size. Remotely triggered avalanches are possible. Whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when stepping on the snowpack serve as an alarm indicating the danger. As a consequence of northwesterly wind, wind slabs will form in the course of the day at elevated altitudes. These are to be avoided in steep terrain. Ski touring and other off-piste activities, including snowshoe hiking, call for extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and restraint.

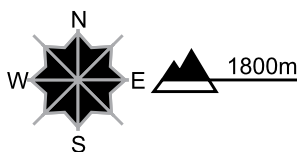
region E

Level 3, considerable



Wind slabs, old snow

Avalanche prone locations

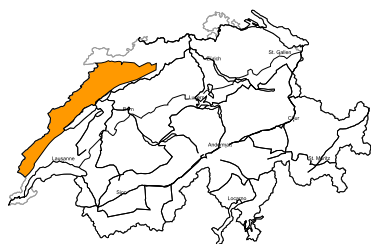


Danger description

The new snow of the last few days is lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. As a consequence of northerly wind, avalanche prone wind slabs will form. Individual natural avalanches are possible. Winter sport participants can release avalanches easily. These can in isolated cases be triggered in deep layers and reach large size. Backcountry touring and other off-piste activities call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

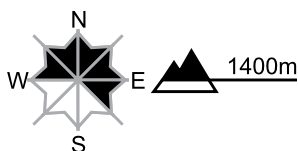
region F

Level 3, considerable



New snow

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The new snow of the last few days is lying on the unfavourable surface of an old snowpack. In addition avalanche prone wind slabs will form as the day progresses. Single winter sport participants can release avalanches. These can reach medium size in isolated cases. Ski touring and snowshoe hiking call for experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

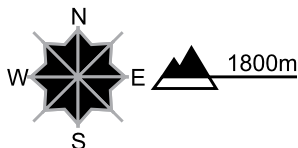
region G

Level 2, moderate



Wind slabs

Avalanche prone locations



Danger description

The northerly wind will transport the loosely bonded old snow. The fresh and somewhat older wind slabs are in some cases prone to triggering. Avalanches can in some places be released by people and reach medium size.

The wind slabs are to be evaluated with care and prudence in steep terrain.

Danger levels



1 low



2 moderate



3 consider.



4 high



5 very high

Snowpack and weather

updated on 16.1.2021, 17:00

Snowpack

The layers of fresh snow and freshly generated snowdrifts of this week, which are large-sized in some places, are settling and stabilizing only very incrementally. This is due to the low temperatures and, in particular, to a marked weak layer in the transition to the old snow. For that reason, bonding to the old snow continues to be extremely prone to triggering. In the Valais and in Grisons, more than anywhere else, avalanches can fracture even inside the weak old snowpack for that reason. During the last few days, a great many naturally triggered avalanches and artificially triggered avalanches have been registered. The avalanches released over large-scale areas in some places. They did not have hugely voluminous mass, but plummeted down long runout zones in some places.

As a result of northerly winds on Saturday, fresh snowdrift accumulations were generated at high altitudes. These subsequently grow still further in frequency and size on Sunday as a result of the fresh fallen snow.

Observed weather on Saturday, 16.01.2021

On Friday night on the northern flank of the Alps there was a few additional centimetres of fresh fallen snow registered down to low lying areas. During the daytime on Saturday it was predominantly sunny in the mountains.

Fresh snow

On Friday night on the northern flank of the Alps: 5 to 10 cm from place to place.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, -7 °C in the western regions, -10 °C in the eastern regions, and -5 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- Winds were blowing at light to moderate strength, in southern and eastern regions at moderate to strong velocity, from northerly directions;
- in the Jura region and the Prealps, predominantly light winds from varying directions.

Weather forecast through Sunday, 17.01.2021

In the northern regions skies will be heavily overcast and snowfall is anticipated down to low lying areas. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be rather sunny as a result of northerly winds. In the Valais, skies will be bright in some places in the afternoon.

Fresh snow

Between Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, above approximately 800 m:

- northern flank of the Alps from the Schilthorn into the Alpstein region: 20 to 30 cm, up to 40 cm from place to place;
- remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais, Lower Valais, northern Grisons, Silvretta, Samnaun: 10 to 20 cm;
- in the other regions of Switzerland, only a few centimetres; south of the Main Alpine Ridge it will remain dry.

Temperature

At midday at 2000 m, between -8 °C in the northern regions and -5 °C in the southern regions.

Wind

- in the Jura region and the Prealps, winds on Saturday night will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from southwesterly directions;
- in the remaining regions of Switzerland, blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly to northwesterly directions; during the course of the day intensifying to strong to storm-velocity from the northwest at high altitudes.

Outlook through Tuesday, 19.01.2021

Monday

On Sunday night in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, an additional 10 to 20 cm of fresh snow is expected to fall down to low lying areas. During the daytime on Monday in the Jura and the eastern regions, skies will still be overcast to start with, subsequently it will turn increasingly sunny. In the western and southern regions it will be predominantly sunny.

In northern regions in those areas where precipitation has been greatest, the danger of naturally triggered avalanches will diminish during the course of the day. For backcountry winter sports enthusiasts, the situation will remain extremely dangerous, however. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Tuesday

In the northern regions, skies will be variably cloudy, in the inneralpine regions it will be predominantly sunny. In the northern regions, southerly foehn winds are expected to rise during the course of the day and temperatures will be slightly higher. In the southern regions it will be sunny to start with, during the afternoon skies will become increasingly overcast. In the foehn-exposed regions of the north, snowdrift accumulations will be generated during the course of the day which will be prone to triggering, and the avalanche danger levels will increase in those places. In the remaining regions of Switzerland, avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.